



UConn Spirit Awards

An Award Celebrating Employee Contributions and Civility

The University of Connecticut established the UConn Spirit Awards to honor staff and faculty at our Storrs and regional campuses for stellar contributions and dedication to civility in the workplace.

The goals of the UConn Spirit Awards are to:

- Build community within the University and University departments;
- Provide an opportunity for employees to be recognized for their contributions to the University, which are not specifically academic but related to teamwork and civility; and
- Create an event that acknowledges the efforts of all employees, especially staff members.

About the Awards

Who's eligible?

All non-probationary, non-temporary, full-time and part-time (20-plus hours per week) staff and faculty employees at the Storrs and regional campuses in good standing with their respective department and the University at the time of nomination. Criteria may differ by award. No member of the UConn Spirit Awards Committee may nominate staff members. Self-nominations, or nominations by family members will not be accepted.

How are winners selected?

In complete confidentiality, nominations will be reviewed by the UConn Spirit Awards Committee, which will distinguish one award recipient per category. The Chief Human Resources Officer chairs the committee in a non-voting capacity.

What are the criteria?

The UConn Spirit Awards celebrate individuals and teams who exceed expectations and contribute positively to the workplace and the University. The spirit of the program is to acknowledge outstanding contributions.

Winners will be chosen in the following categories:

BEHIND THE SCENES INDIVIDUAL AWARD

The Behind the Scenes Award recognizes a university classified employee who provides support services to the University with a commitment to excellence in their daily work life. This employee is seen, but not often heard, producing high quality work that makes it possible for the University to run smoothly. This person is a role model, mentors others, is dependable, a team player, and shows a commitment to the University through their initiative and outstanding customer service to employees, students and/or visitors, always treating others with dignity and respect.

Criteria:

- Employee in an hourly, classified service position in the following bargaining units only – CEUI/NP-2, Police and Fire/NP-5, AFSCME/NP-3 & P-2

BEHIND THE SCENES TEAM AWARD (new for 2023)

The Behind the Scenes Team Award recognizes a university classified team of employees (2 or more employees) who provides support services to the University with a commitment to excellence in their daily work life. This team of employees is seen, but not often heard, producing high quality work that makes it possible for the University to run smoothly. The team members show a commitment to the University through their initiative and outstanding customer service to employees, students and/or visitors, always treating others with dignity and respect.

Criteria:

Note: If an entire department/group/team is nominated, the nomination cannot be submitted by a member within the department/group/team. Nominations may be submitted by a non-group team member.

- Group of two or more individuals;
- Employees in an hourly, classified service position in the following bargaining units only – CEUI/NP-2, Police and Fire/NP-5, AFSCME/NP-3 & P-2 and
- Can be from different departments/units

RISING STAR AWARD

The Rising Star Award is given to a staff member who has contributed significantly to his/her department and University community with enthusiasm, strong work ethic, superior leadership (if applicable), and reliability. This person has enhanced the UConn brand through their ideas and actions.

Criteria:

- New to UConn; and
- Must have held current position within the same department for a minimum of 6 months and less than two years at time of nomination.

TEAM AWARD

This honor is awarded to a department/group/team (two or more individuals) whose collaboration has demonstrated success and overall contribution to the University.

Note: If an entire department is nominated, the nomination cannot be submitted by a member within the department. If a group within a department is nominated, the nomination can be submitted by a non-group team member.

Criteria:

- Group of two or more individuals;
- Can be from different departments; and Collaboration has positively impacted the entire University.

UNsung HERO AWARD

The Unsung Hero Award is awarded to a person who is continually both a real benefit to coworkers and a stable, dependable resource for the entire University.

This staff member consistently goes above and beyond, without fanfare or public recognition; fills in when and wherever needed and always performs at a high level; takes initiative to solve problems and improve work situations without being prompted; demonstrates reliability, perseverance, and focus on results. They help others by sharing knowledge of the Institution's practices and job-related skills.

Criteria:

- Continuously goes above and beyond; and
- Performs their duties with pride.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Inclusive Excellence means putting our community values into action and creating a campus climate where all members belong, thrive and succeed.

The Inclusive Excellence Award recognizes a university employee who exemplifies a commitment to diversity and inclusion in their daily work life, creating and sustaining an environment where all individuals are respected and valued. This award recipient demonstrates measurable progress in promoting and sustaining innovative diversity and inclusion efforts within their campus community.

Criteria:

- Builds awareness, understanding an relationships in the name of diversity and inclusion;
- Create, sponsors or actively promotes programs, initiatives, or projects in the area of diversity and inclusion;
- Acknowledges and rewards exemplary individual or team behaviors that promote diversity and inclusion.

UNIVERSITY CITIZEN AWARD

The University Citizen Award provides an opportunity for employees to recognize a colleague for outstanding service and performance in the workplace. This award exemplifies excellence in exhibiting University workplace values, including honesty, integrity, cooperation, and civility. The award recipient motivates or inspires colleagues to continually improve, has made a professional impact on a colleague, and/or shares knowledge to help colleagues be successful. The recipient acts as a role model, an inspiration, and/or a source of support in the workplace and demonstrates a dedicated interest in helping colleagues succeed.

Note: This category is not meant for submissions by a supervisor about a subordinate employee, or by an employee about their supervisor.

Criteria:

- An employee whose collegial nature has helped a colleague or colleagues be successful;
- Performs duties with steadfast honesty, integrity, cooperation, and civility.

To nominate an individual or team for a UConn Spirit Award, go to spiritawards.uconn.edu or use the attached nomination form.

Forms can be sent via interoffice mail to:
Spirit Awards, Brown Building, Unit 5075 or email to worklife@uconn.edu.

Contact Us

For more information on the awards or ceremony, contact: **Human Resources | 860.486.3034 or worklife@uconn.edu**

UConn Spirit Awards Nomination Form

All nominations must be received by the posted deadline (see spiritawards.uconn.edu).

**Required*

Nominator Name: *

Nominator Email: *

Nominator Department: *

Nominee(s) Name: * (If nominating in the Team category, please include names of all employees on the team)

Nominee Department(s): * (If nominating in the Team category, please include Depts. of all employees on the team)

Choose One Award Category: *

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Individual Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Team Award (<i>new for 2023</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> University Citizen Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising Star Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive Excellence Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsung Hero Award | |

Check here if you wish to remain anonymous to your nominee.

In no more that 200 words, tell us why you are nominating this person or team for a UConn Spirit Award. *